

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/977,777

Applicant(s)

MERKIN ET AL.

Examiner

Russell S. Glass

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 6/29/2007 and Ex. Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11 (RSC)
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 9/12/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
JEFFREY A. SMITH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Bell on 8/31/2007.

#### **In The Title:**

The title of the Application is amended as follows:

**--COMPUTER SYSTEM WARRANTY UPGRADE METHOD WITH CONFIGURATION  
CHANGE DETECTION FEATURE--**

#### **In The Claims:**

The Claims of the Application are amended as follows:

1. A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
  - receiving from a requestor a request to upgrade an existing warranty to cover a new configuration of the computer system;
  - detecting, by the computer system, a configuration of the computer system;

determining if the configuration of the computer system is different than an original configuration of the computer system;

asking, by the computer system, a computer user if a warranty upgrade is desired prior to sending;

sending, by the computer system, a warranty upgrade request to a remote warranty processor, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for field replaceable units (FRUs) in the configuration;

determining a price to upgrade the warranty, using factors related to the configuration of the computer system, wherein one or more of the said factors are selected from the group consisting of: field replaceable units in the configuration, warranty time remaining, reliability of components in the configuration, age of components in the configuration and replacement cost of components in the configuration;

communicating the price to upgrade the warranty to the requestor; and

sending a warranty authorization to the computer system after acceptance of price to upgrade the warranty, wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique identification number of the computer system.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, by the computer system, the price to upgrade the warranty.

3. (cancelled).

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, by the computer system, a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, by the computer system, a digitally signed warranty authorizing including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

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6. The method of claim 3 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
7. The method of claim 3 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty duration information.
8. (cancelled).
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
    authenticating, by the computer system, a digitally signed warranty authorization.
10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
    comparing, by the computer system, a warranted configuration in a warranty authorization with the configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the configuration of the computer system.
11. The method of claim 8 wherein a secure processor in the computer system performs the comparing and storing.

Remaining claims ~~12~~<sup>13</sup>-29 are cancelled. *(RSG)*

#### EXAMINER COMMENTS

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

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has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/16/2007 has been entered. Upon entry of the examiner's amendments in this office action, the finality of the last rejection should be withdrawn as the claims are considered to be currently allowable.

### CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is as follows: Costello et al, (U.S. 7,266,515); Piazza et al., (U.S. 7,047,565); Schlabach et al., (U.S. 6,810,406), and *Notebook Security: IBM Unveils Industry's First Notebook PCs With Radio Frequency-based Security*, (ThinkPad 770Z and 600E notebook PCs ) (Product Announcement), EDGE: Work-Group Computing Report , p NA, Feb 1 , 1999.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell S. Glass whose telephone number is 571-272-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

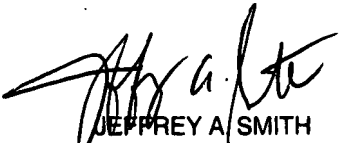
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RSG

9/12/2007



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